

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on January 26, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Connell, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Sue Malek (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 78, 1/11/2017; SB 102, 1/11/2017

00:00:47 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON SB 78

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:04 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 78, Revise reimbursement of net metered generators.

[EXHIBIT\(ens19a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:11:55 John Alke, NorthWestern Energy
00:16:33 Sen. Tempel entered the hearing.
00:16:48 Greg Dorrington, Montana Dakota Utilities

Opponents' Testimony:

00:17:50 Brad Van Wert, solar electric contractor
00:21:10 Ed Gulick, president, High Plains Architects, P.C.
00:25:23 Connie Keogh, Northern Plains Resource Council
00:29:01 Shane Morrissey, self
00:32:38 Nick Domitrovich, self
00:35:39 Jennifer Swearingen, self
00:38:46 Ken Decker, Yellowstone Bend Citizens Council
00:41:51 Will Swearingen, self
00:44:28 Becky Weed, self
00:48:41 Erica Lighthiser, Montana Mountain Mamas
00:51:16 Lee Metzgar, self
00:52:58 Denny Haywood, self
00:53:52 Shannon McDonald, self
00:54:12 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association
00:54:58 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest
00:55:26 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center
00:55:48 Tucker Finley, Montana Public Interest Research Group
00:56:03 Abigail Belcher, Associated Students of The University of Montana

Informational Testimony:

00:56:53 Brad Johnson, Public Service Commission

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:58:47 Sen. Barrett
01:05:44 Sen. Regier

Closing by Sponsor:

01:06:04 Sen. Regier

01:07:26 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON SB 102

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:07:54 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 102, Establish a maximum length for qualifying facility contracts.

01:07:59 Chair Ankney left the hearing.

01:12:25 Vice Chair Connell assumed the role as the chair.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:12:38 John Alke, NorthWestern Energy

[EXHIBIT\(ens19a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(ens19a03\)](#)

01:19:37 Greg Dorrington, Montana Dakota Utilities

01:20:23 Jess LaBuff, Boilermakers Local 11

Opponents' Testimony:

01:20:55 Hewitt Strange, Cypress Creek Renewables

01:23:50 Casey May, Cypress Creek Renewables

01:24:23 Chair Ankney resumed the role as the chair.

01:28:34 Cameron Stongstreet, TransAlta Energy

01:33:18 Laura Farkas, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

01:39:20 Allan Frankl, Gordon Butte Wind

01:43:36 Michal Uda, self

01:52:08 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest

01:57:06 Diego Rivas, Northwest Energy Coalition

[EXHIBIT\(ens19a04\)](#)

02:02:43 Ed Gulick, Northern Plains Resource Council

02:03:38 Brenda Lindlief-Hall, Tongue River Water Users Association

02:05:12 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center

02:06:22 Jim Brown, Montana Independent Bankers Association

02:06:50 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association

02:07:12 Steve Turkiewicz, Montana Bankers Association

02:07:47 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association

Informational Testimony:

02:09:06 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:10:24 Sen. Connell

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02:12:59 Mr. Rosquist, PSC

02:13:54 Sen. Wolken

02:14:19 Mr. Uda, self

Closing by Sponsor:

02:17:06 Sen. Richmond

02:20:18 Chair Ankney

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:45 PM

Charlene Devine, Secretary

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Additional Documents

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens19aad.pdf](#))